THINGS NEITHER HEATED UP NOR COOLED DOWN.

EVERY DAY, I RECEIVE CONSTANT PUNISHMENT.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?!

MAKES ME WONDER HOW MANY DAYS LIKE THAT HAVE ALREADY PASSED.

EVEN AFTER I CONFESSED MY SINS, I STILL CONTINUED WITH MY DAILY ACTIVITY.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE SOMEONE'S SPOKEN TO ME SO FRANKLY ...

ZZZIP!

STOP YELLING LIKE THAT, KITAHARA...

HOWEVER, THIS HOBBY OF MINE

WILL END TODAY.

オナニーフォター黒沢

第二十五発「繋がり」

YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND!

AND YET YOU KNEW EVERYBODY WOULD TREAT YOU HARSHLY ...

THE REAL CRAZY ONE

NOPE.

I'M VERY SANE RIGHT NOW.

!!?

WAS MY PREVIOUS SELF, UP UNTIL NOW.

IS SUFF-ERING THROUGH THAT SO ENJOY-ABLE?!

FLAT-OUT STRUGGLING TO FIND ANYBODY TO TALK TO ...

GRAFFITI ON YOUR DESK ...

... GETTING BRUISES ON YOUR FACE ...

I DON'T ENJOY THIS.

I'M NO MASOCHIST.

HEY, KITA-HARA.

WHY?!

THEN,

THE PAIN THAT YOU FELT.

I THINK I UNDERSTAND PRETTY WELL NOW ...

I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD AFFECT ME THAT MUCH ...

HONESTLY, I CAN'T STAND IT.

BECOMING THE TARGET OF OTHER PEOPLE'S MALICIOUS ACTS ...

AT THOSE MOMENTS I JUST THINK 'OH, NOT AGAIN', AND START GETTING A LITTLE PISSED.

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES IT'S DONE TO ME, I JUST CAN'T GET USED TO IT ...

死ね

WAS WHAT I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT, UP UNTIL NOW ...

"I DON'T CARE WHAT OTHERS THINK ABOUT ME" ...

I NEVER IMAGINED MYSELF TO BE SUCH A WEAK HUMAN BEING.

IT'S EXACTLY AS YOU SAID.

WITH NOBODY LEFT TO KEEP ME COMPANY, I FINALLY REALIZED IT.

WHEN YOU SAID TO ME "NOBODY WANTS TO BE HATED BY OTHER PEOPLE?"

REMEMBER, IN THE FERRIS WHEEL ON THE SCHOOL TRIP

え, ...

WE'RE NOTHING BUT POWERLESS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ...

AFTER ALL, I'M THE SAME AS YOU.

... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...

IN THIS SMALL, CRAMPED STALL

THIS STAINED, DIRTY, DULL GIRL'S BATHROOM STALL WALL.

I'M ABLE TO REACH PEOPLE WHO I NORMALLY CAN NOT REACH.

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY TIMES I CUMMED ON IT.

KURO-SAWA-KUN?

I NEVER WANTED ...

HOW MANY TIMES

MY

ANYBODY TO HATE ME ...

WEAK-NESS ...!

I DON'T BELONG TO ANY GROUPS.

I HAVE TO FIGHT AND STRUGGLE TO BUILD MYSELF UP ...

IN THE END, ALL I WANT IS JUST TO BE NOT HATED BY EVERYONE ...

AND SO, INSIDE THIS STALL ...

... WHAT ARE ...

YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?

I INDULGED IN

くぎ宮沢くんの

CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

WHAT?

IT'S THE REASON WHY I CONFESSED MY SINS.

ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU ASKED?

THERE ARE TWO REASONS WHY I CHOSE THE ROAD PAVED WITH THORNS.

ONE OF THEM IS FOR MYSELF.

ONE OF THEM IS FOR YOU.

...?!

FOR ME ...?

YOU ARE ONE OF THE FEW "CONNECTIONS" I WAITED FOR.

THE DETAILS ARE PRETTY BAD, BUT,

I'M GRATEFUL,

THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME COULD CONNECT WITH A PERSON LIKE YOU.

KITAHARA,

ON THE DAY OF OUR FINAL PLAN, I SAW IT.

JUST A MERE GLANCE.

SOMETHING I COULDN'T SEE WHILE SHUT INSIDE THIS STALL THE WHOLE TIME.

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SCENE.

MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY SCENE I HAD EVER DREAMED UP INSIDE MY HEAD ...

I WANT TO GO TO THAT DREAM-LIKE SCENE.

KITAHARA...

AFTER ALL, I'M JUST A GUY IN THE GIRL'S BATHROOM PLAYING CATCHER IN THE RYE.

I'LL TEACH YOU

HOW TO BUY A TICKET.

HOWEVER, I WANT TO GO TO GREAT LENGTHS SO THAT YOU CAN SEE.

I'LL COMPLETELY ELIMINATE MY GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

I DON'T WANT IT TO BE SOMEBODY ELSE'S DREAM; I WANT IT TO BECOME A REALITY WITH SOMEONE.

JUST KEEP WATCHING ME.

IN THESE LAST MONTHS WE HAVE UNTIL GRADUATION

I WON'T DEPEND ON ANYONE ELSE.

I WON'T FOLD, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I HAVE TO SUFFER.

I WILL ENDURE.

UNTIL SOMEONE STARTS TO THINK OF ME AS A NORMAL STUDENT

?

!!

I'D WANT TO SHAKE YOUR HAND NOW, BUT ...

IN REALITY,

PEN--...!?!?

YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT.

HA HA HA!

THIS MAN'S HANDS WERE JUST GRABBING HIS PENIS.

COME TO THINK OF IT, ON THE SCHOOL TRIP, WHEN YOU TOUCHED THAT BOTTLE FILLED WITH TISSUES

YOUR FACE TURNED RED.

IN CONTRAST TO THAT HEARTLESS AGREE-MENT WE HAD

YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY INNOCENT SIDE, DON'T YOU.

OF... OF COURSE I DO!

IT'S NOT LIKE I HATE

THAT PART OF YOU.

THE REST WAS

A LITTLE MEAN, BUT ...

AH, RIGHT, RIGHT.

IF YOU'VE BEEN WANTING TO RAT ME OUT THEN GO RIGHT AHEAD

THINGS CAN'T POSSIBLY GET ANY WORSE THAN HOW THEY ARE NOW

IN OUR AGREE-MENT

DIDN'T WE BOTH DECIDE TO PLAY PRANKS ON GIRL'S BELONGINGS ON A DAILY BASIS?

BESIDES

IT'S KIND OF MYSTER-IOUS.

I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M TRAPPED IN THAT TINY STALL ANY MORE.

MY DAILY ACTIVITY

ENDS TODAY.

TOMOR-ROW

SEE YA LATER, KITAHARA.

WE'LL MEET AGAIN

IN THE CLASS-ROOM.

MY RESOLVE WAS STRENGTH-ENED.

FUNERAL SERVICE HALL

KUROSAWA KAKERU

AGE OF DEATH: 15 YEARS

告別式会場

黒沢翔

享年十五歳

OTHER PEOPLE'S HEARTS WON'T CHANGE SO QUICKLY,

HOW-EVER, IT'S FINE LIKE THIS.

ONE DAY, AFTER MY MIND IS PREP-ARED

I WILL GO PROPERLY APOLOGIZE TO TAKI-GAWA.

図書室

I'VE GOT TO SETTLE THINGS,

APOLOGIZE

AND IF SHE DECIDES TO FORGIVE ME

I'VE GOT SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO TALK ABOUT WITH HER

STUFF ABOUT BOOKS

AND ALSO ABOUT MY DREAM.

WITH THAT LET'S START SOME PAIR STRETCHING!

ALL RIGHT!

EVERYBODY'S ASSEMBLED HERE, RIGHT?

IMAGINE YOUR BODY AS WATER!

THINK OF YOURSELF AS MERCURY!

WELL

LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO BE STRETCHING BY MYSELF AGAIN

AH.

...

ㅅㅣ

.....

...

U-

UM

...

.....

KURO-SAWA-DONO ...

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING

TO SAY BACK TO HIM.

HE-Y!

NAGA-OKA!

LET'S STRETCH TOGE-THER!

. . . . . .

HE-Y!

NAGAOKA, HURRY UP AND GET OVER HERE!

AS I EXP-ECTED

THINGS AREN'T GOING SO WELL.

...
DONOO-
OOO!

BUT

THAT
VOICE
IS!

HAAH

HAAH

KURO-
SAWA-
DONO-
OOO!

WILL YOU STRETCH TOGETHER WITH ME?!!

KURO-SAWA-DONO-OOO!!!!

AH...

HA...

AH, RIGHT.

I KNEW IT.

HAAH...

LET'S...!

HAAH...

STRETCH...

HAAH...

THIS GUY IS

KURO-SAWA-DONO!!!!

TOGE-THER!!!!

PERSIS-TENT!

PRETTY DAMN

NAGA-OKA ...!

SURE ...

.....

LET'S DO IT TOGE-THER!

IF YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT, I'M GONNA BELIEVE YOU, KUROSAWA-DONO!!

LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!

FROM THE FIRST DAY HE STARTED TALKING TO ME

SOMETHING I'VE BEEN RUNNING AWAY FROM SAYING.

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY TO HIM.

BUT BEFORE THAT

THANK YOU.

I'LL NEVER RELIN-QUISH THIS RELATI-ONSHIP

EVER AGAIN.

オナニーマスター黒沢

第二十六発
「迫害されし者の懊悩」

FOR KITAHARA, AND FOR ME AS WELL,

THESE PAINFUL DAYS CONTINUED ON.

IT'S EXACTLY AS NOMIYA-SENSEI TOLD ME A WHILE AGO.

THIS CHEAP HARASS-MENT WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE FOR A WHILE.

YOU GUYS ARE AT AN AGE WHERE YOU SEE A TOY IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES AND WANT TO PLAY WITH IT.

THE HARASS-MENT DIDN'T SHOW

ANY SIGNS OF LETTING UP.

WHILE AM GETTING UPSET, SOMEWHERE SOMEBODY IS LAUGHING AT ME

A FACE FILLED WITH MALICIOUS INTENT THAT CANNOT SEE

BEARING WITH THIS GUY IS PRETTY PAINFUL

DARK, HEAVY CLOUDS WERE ALWAYS

GATHERING INSIDE OF MY CHEST

IF MY INDOOR SHOES WENT MISSING, HE HELPED ME LOOK FOR THEM.

HOWEVER, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I WAS ABLE TO ENDURE IT AND LIVED A STUDENT'S LIFE

IF MY DESK GOT GRAFFITI DRAWN ON IT, HE WOULD STAY LATE TO HELP ME CLEAN IT UP

AH, KUROSAWA-DONO!

GOOD MORNING!

NAGAOKA KEISH, A GOOD NATURED GUY THAT YOU WOULD SELDOM MEET;

HE WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR ME.

IT GAVE ME THE FEELING THAT COULD ENDURE WHATEVER HAPPENS FROM THIS POINT ON

WITH A FRIEND THERE TO LEND A HELPING HAND

P11

ON THE OTHER HAND, KITA-HARA

I DON'T KNOW WHEN HER DOWNFALL BEGAN, BUT SHE SEEMED TO BE ENTERING AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS STATE OF MIND

KITAHARA SAAAAN!

GOOD MORNING-GGG!

YOU'RE LOOKING A LITTLE MORE GLOOMY TODAY, HUH~

I KNOW!

WE'LL PUT SOME MAKEUP ON FOR YOU SO YOU HAVE A NICE CHEERFUL FACE!

IF YOU MAKE THAT GLOOMY EXPRESSION, IT'LL SPOIL YOUR CUTE FACE~☆

AHH! NO, NO! YOU HAVE TO LIFT YOUR FACE UP!

COME ONNN!

COUGH!

COUGH!

COUGH!

TURN YOUR FACE THIS WAY!

RIGHT NOW, IT'S ARAI AND HARUNA USING KITAHARA AS THEIR TOY.

SUGAWA'S GROUP GAVE UP ON TORMENTING KITAHARA.

HOWEVER, IN THEIR STEAD,

AND THEY COULDN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE THEIR REPORT CARD GRADES

NO, THAT'S WRONG

WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?

BECAUSE EXAMS WERE COMING UP

RIGHT NOW IT SEEMS LIKE HER SMALL BODY

IS SHRINKING EVER SMALLER.

GROSS
ANNOYING
DISAPPEAR
YOU SHOULDN'T BE ALIVE
JUST DIE
KUROSAWA-KUN CHOSE THE PATH WHERE HE WOULD CONTINUE TO ENDURE ...
EH?
ON THE OTHER HAND, I COULD ENDURE WHATEVER COMES MY WAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT. I KNOW WHICH ONE IS MORE BEAUTIFUL.
I GET IT ...
TODAY'S AFTER-SCHOOL CLEANUP
ON ONE HAND WE HAVE THE UNFAIR AGREEMENT WHERE I CAN SOLVE ALL MY PROBLEMS.
YOU SAID YOU WOULD SHOW THAT TO ME, RIGHT?
ゴン
ゴン

I CAN'T BE LIKE YOU ...

HOWEVER, I'M DIFFERENT THAN KUROSAWA-KUN.

KILL ARAI AND THEM.

I lly ...

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO

KITA-HARA ...

SO NOW, WE ARE COMPLETE STRANGERS

OUR AGREEMENT HAS EXPIRED ...

I THINK IT'S BETTER IF WE DON'T SPEAK TO EACH OTHER IN THE CLASSROOM.

ゴ=

ゴ=

IT'S TRUE THAT OUR AGREEMENT HAS EXPIRED

BUT YOU SEE, KITAHARA;

I DIDN'T INTEND FOR US

TO BECOME COMPLETE STRANGERS.

DON'T JUST GO SAYING WHAT-EVER IS CONVE-NIENT!!!

. . . . .

I CAN'T THINK SPLENDID THOUGHTS LIKE YOU!

I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU!

THAT'S FUCKING IDIOTIC!!!

I ALREADY SAID I COULDN'T BECOME LIKE YOU!!

I DON'T WANT YOUR SYM-PATHY!!

I DIDN'T FEEL ONE BIT OF HAPPINESS WHEN YOU SAID WE'RE NOT STRANGERS!

IF I CAN MAKE THEM SUFFER TOO, THEN IT'S JUST FINE!!

ARA!!

HARUNA!!

ALL THOSE BITCHES WHO DO CRUEL THINGS TO ME!!

BUT THAT IS IMPOS-SIBLE!!

I KNOW KURO-SAWA-KUN IS TRYING TO CHANGE ...

I KNOW YOU TOLD ME I SHOULD CHANGE ...

THE INSIDE OF MY HEART IS PITCH BLACK!!!

I'M DIRTY!

I AM DIFFERENT FROM KUROSAWA-KUN!!

I WISH EVERYONE I HATED WOULD JUST DISAPPEAR!!!

I'M A COWARD!

I'M NOT NICE AT ALL!!

I'M THE TYPE OF GIRL WHO CARRIED OUT AN AGREEMENT LIKE THAT!

I WILL NEVER FORGIVE TAKIGAWA-SAN FOR GETTING TOGETHER WITH NAGAOKA-KUN!!!

ARAI AND HARUNA AND SUGAWA AND HARADA AND NAITOU AND TAKIGAWA, I HATE THEM ALL!!!

I'M THE TYPE OF BITTER GIRL WHO CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THESE KIND OF THINGS!!

I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU, KUROSAWA-KUN!!!

I CAN'T ENDURE IT!!!

I CANNOT CHANGE!!!!

.....

IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO RETURN TO THE GIRL'S BATH-ROOM

THEN JUST FORGET ABOUT ME ...

...

...I YELLED ...

... I'M SORRY ...

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE JUST PLAYING CATCHER IN THE RYE IN THE GIRL'S BATHROOM

EVEN IF YOU SAY WE'RE NOT STRAN-GERS

I'LL BE MISER-ABLE ...

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IT'S KIND OF FRUS-TRATING ...

IF I SEE A FAMILIAR FACE ...

YOU AND I ARE ...

DIFF- ERENT ...

WE ARE NOT ALIKE ...

ガラ ...

IF YOU EVER NEED A HAND ...

FEEL FREE TO CALL ME ANY TIME ...

NOW, I REALLY UNDER-STAND YOUR PAIN.

ガラガラ

ドタ…

図書室

TO LEND A HAND.

I KNOW THE VALUE OF HAVING SOMEONE THERE

ガラガラ

ドタ…

HIYA.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT ...

LITER-ATURE BOY ...

TAKI-GAWA ...

"IT'S BEEN A WHILE" SEEMS LIKE A STRANGE CHOICE OF WORDS.

BECAUSE I SEE HER EVERY DAY IN THE CLASS-ROOM

...
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU TODAY ...?

I THOUGHT YOU ONLY CAME HERE TO REST ON RAINY DAYS ...

NO...

YOU SEE, TODAY ...

IT'S SNOWING.

黙沢

第三十七発「Another side」

KUROSAWA-KUN...?

THAT STRING OF INCIDENTS?

IT WAS ALL ME.

I DID IT.

I'M TRULY SORRY.

KURO-
SAWA-
KUN
...

WHY
...?!

...

WHY
...?!

ARE YOU SERIOUS? ALL OF THAT WAS HIS DOING?

I WAS SO SURPRISED! I DIDN'T EXPECT IT AT ALL.

PUTTING ON A SHOW LIKE HE'S ALL GROWN UP?

BULLSHIT! HE'S A FREAKING PERVERT!

ANYWAY, HASN'T HE BEEN PRETTY FRIENDLY WITH TAKIGAWA LATELY?

THEN WHY THE HELL WOULD HE DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

KUROSAWA IS DISGUSTING.

SURELY THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF MISTAKE, KUROSAWA-KUN ...

NO... KUROSAWA-KUN ISN'T THAT TYPE OF PERSON ...

HE GATHERED UP HIS COURAGE AND APOLOGIZED ...!

BUT HE APOLOGIZED IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY ...!

IF I WERE THE POLICE, I WOULD HAVE ACQUITTED HIM ON EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES!

THAT'S ENOUGH ...!

IT REALLY IS ...!

I MUST TELL HIM ...

THAT I FORGIVE HIM ...

THAT I ...

FORGIVE ...

...

I WANTED TO SAY IT ...

EVEN THOUGH

I SAY IT..!?

WHY COULDN'T ...

EH?

AH?

TAKK!?

SOME-THING WRONG? YOU'RE SPACING OUT

!!

NO...

IT'S NOTHING ...

GET UP.

CAN'T HELP IT

THAT'S WHAT HE GETS FOR MESSING WITH SUGAWA.

OH, SHIT.

IS KUROSAWA GOING TO GET BEAT UP?

HEY, BASTARD!

LOOK AT ME!

IDIOT!

ユサ…

YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

KURO-SAWA-KUN …!

TAKK?!

キョロ…キョロ…

KURO-SAWA-KUN!

DO YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH THAT PERVERT?

HE'S REALLY WEAK RIGHT NOW, SO YOU CAN HIT HIM ALL YOU WANT.

...

YOU WANNA HIT HIM TOO?

...

I...

I...

DO YOU HEAR THE BELL RINGING?

MISS HONORS STUDENT?

IF YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS HERE THEN HURRY AND GET BACK TO CLASS.

SOME-THING SO HARSH?

WHY ARE YOU DOING ...

WH...

ISN'T THAT WHAT HE WANTED?

IF HE HAD KEPT HIS MOUTH SHUT

HUH?

HARSH?

WE'RE JUST PAYING HIM BACK FOR WHAT HE DID TO US.

HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE SUCH A COURTEOUS PUBLIC ANNOUCEMENT IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE CLASS.

ANYBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT

THEN NOBODY WOULD HAVE KNOWN WHO IT WAS.

TO BE OSTRACIZED FROM CLASS, AND TO BE BEATEN UP;

THESE ARE ALL THINGS THAT HE WANTED.

BEATS ME.

MAYBE HE'S A MASO-CHIST?

WHY WOULD ...

HE DO THAT ...

3

HAHAHA!

OH SHIT, WHAT IS THIS?!

WHOA-!

WONDER WHAT KIND OF FACE HE'LL MAKE WHEN HE SEES THIS!

WOW, THIS "ONANI MASTER" IS KIND OF FITTING!

AWESOME!

FROM TODAY HE'LL BE "ONANI MASTER KUROSAWA"!

THAT'S ENOUGH ...

ENOUGH ALREADY ...

THERE'S NO WAY THAT THIS WAS THE SITUATION KUROSAWA-KUN WANTED!

NOBODY COULD BE FINE AFTER HAVING ALL THIS STUFF DONE TO THEM ...!

精子王子はTOBじゃなくて精子を仕掛ける!

THERES NO WAY HE COULD ENDURE IT..!

I MUST TELL HIM ...!

I HAVE TO TELL HIM "THAT'S ENOUGH" ...!

I STILL CAN'T FORGIVE HIM!?

BUT, I CAN'T SAY IT.

WHAT AM I!?

I'M TERRIBLE!

FROM THAT TIME WHEN I WAS DEPRESSED AND IRRESOLUTE,

I HAVEN'T CHANGED ...

I KNEW IT!

AT ALL ...!

I HAVEN'T CHANGED ...

GOOD MORNING!

YO!

ペタ…

I FOUND YOUR INDOOR SHOES!!

KURO-SAWA-DONOOO!!

I'M SORRY

AND, THANK YOU.

NO, NO!

IT WAS NO PROBLEM!

NAGA-OKA!

THEY WERE IN THE BATHROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR!

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE MADE UP WITH KUROSAWA-KUN ...

I HADN'T NOTICED AT ALL ...

UM, IT'S TRUE THAT I'VE MADE UP WITH KUROSAWA-DONO

BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN MAGISTEL-DONO HAS TO

YEAH, I KNOW.

EH? AH, ABOUT THAT ...

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I KNOW ALREADY.

SAW YOU AT THE SHOE LOCKERS THIS MORNING

I WANT TO MAKE UP WITH HIM, TOO.

I WANT TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO EVERYBODY TOGETHER... AND TALK ABOUT NOVELS...

MY WISH WOULD BE GRANTED IF I COULD JUST SAY "I FORGIVE YOU" ...

BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I CAN'T SAY IT.

"HE APOLOGIZED IN FRONT OF EVERYONE, SO IT'LL BE FINE" IS WHAT I HAD THOUGHT ...

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, I WAS ALSO THINKING ...

"HE MIGHT BETRAY ME AGAIN" ...

JUST BARELY CAN'T TRUST HIM ...

I'M SUCH A ... TERRIBLE PERSON, AREN'T I

THAT'S ...

NO... NO, NO ...!

AN INCIDENT LIKE THAT OCCURED!

IT'S NATURAL FOR YOU TO HAVE YOUR DOUBTS ...!

I... GUESS SO...

OF COURSE!

.....

I...

STARTED HANGING AROUND KUROSAWA-DONO AFTER OUR SECOND YEAR, BUT

.....

A FEW DAYS AGO, IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HEARD THE WORDS

"THANK YOU"

COME OUT OF KUROSAWA-DONO'S MOUTH

KUROSAWA-KUN WOULD NORMALLY BE SO EMBARRASED HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

THAT'S RIGHT!!

I WAS TAKEN ABACK FOR A MOMENT,

AND THEN WE EVEN SHOOK HANDS!

EH-?

SERI-OUSLY?

BUT ABOVE ALL,

I WAS SO HAPPY!

MAGI-STEL-DONO.

THIS IS JUST MY OPINION, BUT

A MAN OF FEW WORDS!

AHAHAHAHA!

IT REALLY IS TRUE!

BUT WATCHING YOU GUYS WAS CERTAINLY A LOT OF FUN!

WAS SO SCARED IN MY HEART WONDERING IF HE HATED ME OR NOT!

THE OLD KUROSAWA-DONO WHO WOULD ONLY SAY ONE WORD TO ME AT A TIME WAS SO INTENSE

AND THOSE COLD EYES!

ISN'T KURO-SAWA-DONO

TRYING TO CHANGE?

AH ...

IF HE WANTED TO AVOID IT, HE COULD HAVE DONE SO.

BUT HE DARED TO RECEIVE PUNISHMENT ...

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT VAGUELY, HE HELD NOTHING BACK IN CONFESSING HIS SINS ...

AH ...

IT'S BECAUSE HE CAUSED THOSE INCIDENTS, THAT KUROSAWA-DONO TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO RECEIVE ALL THAT PUNISHMENT.

WE'RE ALIKE ...

PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE ...

HE WANTS TO CHANGE.

KURO-SAWA-KUN

THOUGHT WOULD CHANGE AFTER ENTERED MIDDLE SCHOOL

BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO BE ALONE FOREVER

WANTED TO CHANGE ...

WE'RE BOTH

I MIGHT BE BIASED BECAUSE I'M HIS FRIEND, BUT ...

ALIKE ...

I...

MAGI-STEL-DONO?

!

BUT THAT'S WHAT I THINK ...

I...

THINK SO TOO...

WITH-...

WITHOUT A DOUBT!

STILL, I GET IT!

"I SEE THE LIGHT"?

AREN'T THOSE JUST TEARS IN YOUR EYES!?

OF TRYING TO CHANGE ...!

AH...

I SEE THE LIGHT...

W WHAT'S WRONG ALL OF A SUDDEN?!

I UNDER-STAND THAT FEELING

THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO SAY TO YOU ...

TAKI-GAWA ...

ON THE DAY OF THE ATHLETIC FESTIVAL

THAT THING I DID TO YOU

WHAT IS IT?

I'M SORRY.

I KNOW THAT NO MATTER HOW I APOLOGIZE, IT WON'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I HURT YOU DEEPLY

HOWEVER, I HAD DECIDED THAT IF THERE WAS A DAY THAT YOU EVER CAME BACK HERE

THAT I WOULD TELL YOU PROPERLY

I COULDN'T FIND THE WORDS TO CONVEY MY FEELINGS TO THE PERSON MOST IMPORTANT TO ME

IT DIDN'T MATTER IF I HAD READ TEN BOOKS OR ONE HUNDRED BOOKS.

THE MOST IMPOR-TANT EMOTION INSIDE OF ME

THE WORDS TO CONVEY

IT'S OKAY.

予備校

HMMM ...

JUST UNDER FOUR MONTHS REMAINED IN MY MIDDLE SCHOOL LIFE.

YOU'RE QUITE THE SLOW STARTER ...

OR SOME-THING, AREN'T YOU?

WERE THOSE THAT PRETTY MUCH HAD NO SENSE OF THE IMPENDING CRISIS

THE ONLY TYPE OF PEOPLE WHO ENTERED CRAM SCHOOL SO CLOSE TO EXAM TIME

HAHA ...

I WAS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE.

IF YOU TRY YOUR BEST HERE, ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN.

ALTHOUGH, IT'S A PRETTY TALL HURDLE TO CLEAR

HAHAHA!

HOWEVER, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT STUDYING.

オナニーマスター黒沢

第二十八発
「彼女が消えるまで(前)」

DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE DIRECT THAN THIS?

IT'S NOT REALLY RELATED TO GETTING INTO A SCHOOL, RIGHT?

IT'S ABOUT YOUR REASON FOR WANTING TO GET INTO SCHOOL

OH, BY THE WAY,

I'VE GOT SOME-THING I WANT TO ASK.

BUT IT IS RELATED ...

AHH, THAT TIME I TOTALLY TURNED GREEN AND PUKED...

IT WAS SO EMBARRASSING~

AHAHAHA!

I SAID IT'S FINE, ALREADY!

KUROSAWA-KUN ALREADY APOLOGIZED IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY, RIGHT?

I'M SORRY.

I DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU ...

I CAN'T EVEN THINK OF ANY OTHER WORDS TO SAY ...

SHE DIDN'T HAVE THIS EXTREMELY GOOD-NATURED PERSONALITY WHEN WE MET

A PERSON THAT HAD ACHIEVED THIS PERSONALITY

SHE WAS JUST AS I HAD REMEMBERED.

EVERYBODY'S RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF PUBERTY!

BOYS SURE DO HAVE THEIR OWN SHARE OF PROBLEMS, EH?

SHE ALMOST RESEMBLED NAGAOKA.

IN THAT RESPECT

AH...
NO...
WHAT'S WRONG?
SUDDENLY
EH?
AH?!
UWAH...
EH?
IT'S NOTHING...!
FELT LIKE CRYING.
EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE
THAT YOU FORGAVE ME...
EVEN THOUGH I COULD NOT
...NO...
I'M SO GLAD...
HOW MUCH I HAD HURT HER...
BECAUSE I REALLY...
DID SOMETHING UNFORGIVABLE TO YOU...

AS I THOUGHT, MAYBE IT'S BETTER IF I DIDN'T FORGIVE YOU SO EASILY AFTER ALL?

H~~~MM?

...

EH?

...

ALL RIGHT.

MY FORGIVE-NESS IS REVOKED!

THEN,

EHH?!

IN.
EX-.
CHANGE!

AN...
AGREE-
MENT?

WILL YOU MAKE AN AGREE-MENT WITH ME?

I THOUGHT ONLY PEOPLE LIKE KITAHARA CAME UP WITH STRANGE STUFF LIKE THAT.

IF YOU WANT ME TO FORGIVE YOU ...

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR THOSE WORDS COME OUT OF TAKIGAWA'S MOUTH.

THAT PROMISE WE MADE.

YOU'LL KEEP

PRO-
MISE.

UP UNTIL NOW, THE PROMISE

I HAD MADE WITH HER WAS:

入学希望動機

I WANT TO BECOME A NOVELIST.

BECOME A NOVELIST.

THAT I WOULD

I MADE A PROMISE WITH A FRIEND

HA HA HA!

ISN'T THAT A PRETTY NARROW WAY OF LOOKING AT IT?

GREAT NOVELISTS OFTEN COME FROM FAMOUS SCHOOLS

SHOULDN'T ONE GO TO A FAMOUS SCHOOL AND EARN A DEGREE THERE?

IN ORDER TO BECOME A NOVELIST

NOPE,

IT SEEMS LIKE THAT'S OFTEN THE CASE.

ALL RIGHT ...

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY YEARS IT WILL TAKE,

BUT I WILL DEF-INITELY

KEEP OUR PROMISE.

OK!

THEN, I FOR-GIVE YOU!

OH GEEZ ...

I'VE PUT MY STAMP OF APPROVAL ON A TERRIBLE CONTRACT

AH.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO WRITE UP A CONTRACT?

.....

LOOKS LIKE THIS AGREE-MENT IS GOING TO BE PRETTY HUGE

FOR FOUR DAYS EACH WEEK I WOULD BE COMING AND GOING TO EITHER SCHOOL, CRAM SCHOOL, OR MY HOUSE

AND NOW, I'VE ENTERED CRAM SCHOOL.

THIS "EXAM WAR" WOULD BUILD UP SPEED UNTIL NEW YEAR'S.

IT WAS A RACE AGAINST TIME BUT WASN'T GETTING UNEASY

EVEN SO, I DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE ANY TIME

THE PRELIMINARY BATTLE HAD ALREADY STARTED

B GROUP OVERTIME SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS

AHH~!!

GOD DAMN IT~!!

I DON'T GET IT~!

ARG~!!

WHAT THE HELL ARE THESE SIMULTANEOUS EQUATIONS?!

USE ALL YOUR POWERS ...

SOMEONE WHO UNDER-STANDS ...

COME HERE~

あ

あ

あ

:

フィン

AH?

ISN'T THIS PART WRONG?

THE VALUE YOU SUBSTI-TUTED IS INCO-RRECT.

OH?

HOW IS IT?

NOW YOU CAN DO IT, RIGHT?

THE CORRECT ONE...

IS LIKE THIS.

OH... AH... OHH... SERI-OUSLY ...

SO ABRUPT!!

I DIDN'T ASK YOU, YOU PERVERTED SON OF A BITCH!!!

SHUT UP!!

I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO HELP ANYWAYS!

AND WHY THE HELL ARE YOU IN GROUP B'S SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS!?

BUT THERE'S NOBODY ELSE IN THIS CLASSROOM BESIDES ME AND YOU.

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT, SUGAWA-SAN

THAT SELF-CONFIDENT REMARK REALLY PISSES ME OFF!!

HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE AND GO JERK OFF OR SOMETHING!

BUT, I'M NOT WORRIED SOONER OR LATER I'LL BE RAISED TO GROUP A, AND ALL THE PEOPLE IN MY WAY WILL DISAPPEAR

PEOPLE WHO JOIN MIDWAY ARE ALL PUT INTO GROUP B

!!

. . . .

I'M SERIOUSLY GOING TO KILL YOU.

AND IF YOU THINK OF ME WHILE YOU'RE FAPPING

...!

HEH. ...

SOME-HOW, LAUGHED.

YOU'RE ACTUALLY PRETTY SHY, AREN'T YOU?

ER WELL, SUGAWA-SAN ALWAYS HAS A SCARY FACE ON IN CLASS, BUT

WHA... WHAT ARE YOU LAUGH-ING ABOUT ...

HUHHH?!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

GROSS!

YOU'RE GROSS!

DON'T GET NEAR ME!

YOU SMELL LIKE A SQUID!

SEA STINK ...

SQUID STINK ...

AHH!

SHRIMP STINK ...

AH ...

HEY, UH ...

ABOUT THE PROBLEM FROM EARLIER ...

COULD YOU TEACH ME?

IF WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE IF SHE HAD SAID IT LIKE THAT FROM THE BEGINNING

WHAT A TROUBLE-SOME PERSON-ALITY

SU-GAWA MAKO.

I'VE BEEN HER CLASSMATE FOR THESE LAST EIGHT MONTHS

BUT UNTIL NOW I HADN'T SEEN THIS SIDE OF HER.

I DID IT!

AFTER I WENT OUTSIDE

GOOD WORK TODAY.

AN UNEX-PECTED PERSON WAS THERE.

SU-GAWA-SAN ...

HEY!

!

HI ...

UGH. IT'S COLD ...

AND WE HAD AN UNEX-PECTED CONVER-SATION.

OH.

HERE YA GO.

AND MADE ME WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HER.

I DON'T WANT TO BE IN DEBT TO A PERVERTED SON OF A BITCH.

WITH THIS, WE'RE EVEN.

IT WAS A FRESH NEW EXPER-IENCE

THE THOUGHTS HAD OF NEVER WANTING TO GET INVOLVED WITH OTHERS

...

THANKS.

WERE NOW A THING OF THE PAST

I WANT TO SEE MORE OF THESE

WELL, I'M GOING TO DRINK IT.

SURE ...

UNEX-PECTED EXPRESS-IONS FROM UNEX-PECTED PEOPLE

THIS KIND OF THING IS WAY, WAY MORE FUN THAN SHUTTING MYSELF IN A TINY BOX

AND ENGAGING IN SELF-PLEASURE,

KITA-HARA.

AS JANUARY BEGAN

THE COLDNESS AND TENSION IN THE CLASSROOM GRADUALLY GAVE WAY TO A PECULIAR SORT OF ATMOSPHERE

NOTHING HAPPENED

AND THE DAYS STEADILY PASSED BY

I DIDN'T FEEL ANY OMENS

THAT ANYTHING WOULD HAPPEN

BUT

AN INCIDENT OCCURRED.

十月…

十月…

THE FINAL INCIDENT IN THIRD YEAR, CLASS THREE WAS CAUSED BY

KITA-HARA AYA.

HA ...

AH ...

SHE WAS AN AWKWARD, QUIET FEMALE STUDENT

THAT I KNEW QUITE WELL.

NOW AWARDING THE DIPLOMAS ...

NEXT, THIRD YEAR, CLASS THREE.

HERE.

IZAWA KOUTA.

HERE.

ARAI MAKI.

HERE.

OKUI SANAE.

HERE.

UKITA KANA.

HERE.

KURO-SAWA KAKERU.

HERE.

KATOU AOI.

HERE.

黒沢

第二十九発「彼女が消えるまで(後)」

KITA-
HARA
...

IN THE END ...

YOU DIDN'T EVEN COME TO THE GRADUATION CEREMONY ...

KOBAYASHI RYUUTA.

HERE!!!!

KITA-HARA ...

WA HA HA HA!

ACT SERIOUS! THIS IS A GRADUATION CEREMONY!

WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU RIGHT NOW ...

SHOW 'EM!

OH YEAH! I WIN!!

ONE MORE TIME! ONE MORE TIME!

NEXT TIME I'M THE SLAVE SIDE!

ARRGH! NOT AGAIN! YOU'RE TOO GOOD!

FUCK YOU, I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!

SAND

PHEW~

LOOKS LIKE FINE ARTS CLASS HAS COMPLETELY TURNED INTO BREAK TIME~

SEKI-KUN, WHAT KIND OF SHAPE IS THAT?

A PIZZA.

THAT'S TRUE.

SO HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT E-CARD?

FINE ARTS CLASS IS A PRECIOUS TIME WHERE EVERYONE IS SET FREE FROM THE PRESSURE OF EXAMS.

CAN'T HELP IT.

KI-. TA-. HA-. RA-.

SAN!

WOOOW! YOU'VE CARVED SOOOO MUCH!

HOW'S YOUR MUSIC BOX PROJECT COMING ALONG~?

BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHAPE IT IS!

HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING TO US?

STOP IGNORING US, KITAHARA-SAAAN.

THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN

ARAI AND HARU-NA

:

SHALL I CLEAN THEM UP FOR YOU?

AH, HEY.

AREN'T THERE A LOT OF WOOD SHAVINGS GATHERED ON YOUR DESK?

FOOOO!

KYAHAHAHA!!

MY BAAAAD!!

THEY GOT ALL OVER YOU!

ARE YOU OKAAAY?!

KITAHARA-SAN!

LET ME GO GET A CLOTH TO SO I CAN WIPE YOU OFF, OK?!

KYA HA HA HA!

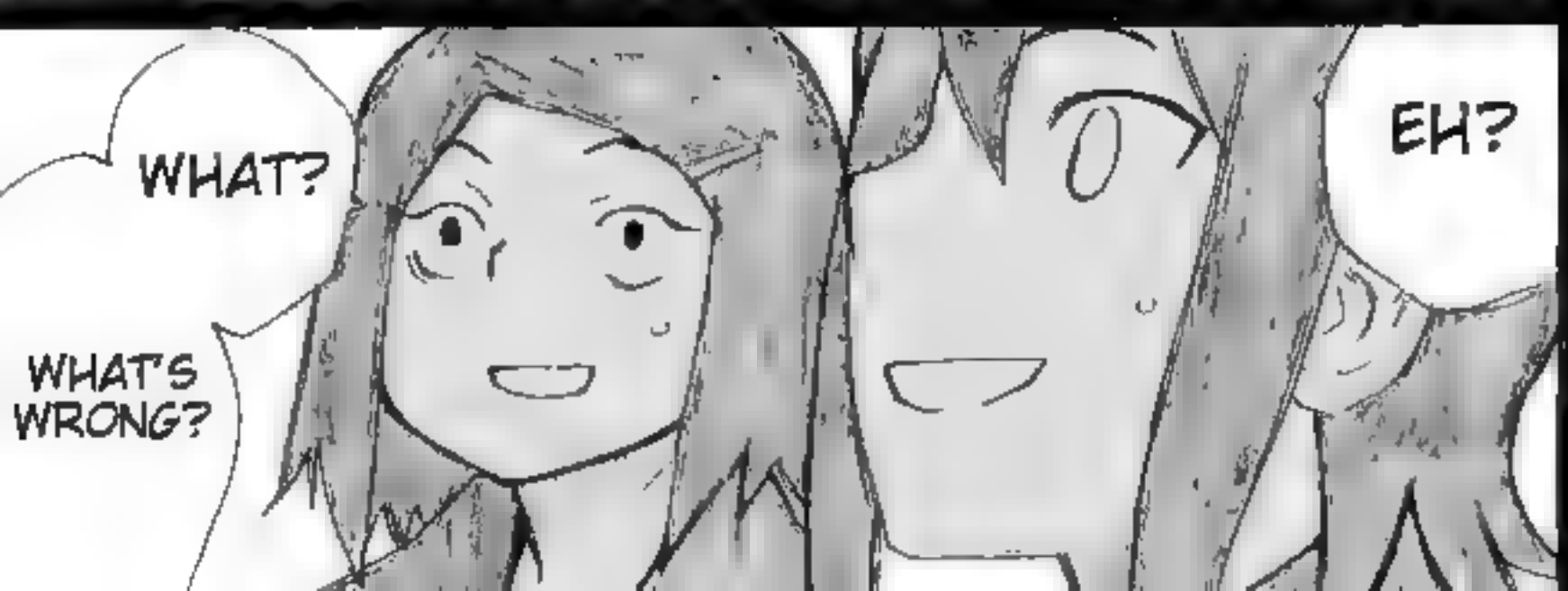
...

...THEY'RE KIND OF ANNOY-ING ...

BUTTING IN THE MOMENT WE BACKED OFF OF KITAHARA ...

KI-

...


WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
EH?

ドク ン ・・・

SOME-HOW, I HAD A

VERY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

AND THEN

THAT UNEASE WAS ...

KYAAA

HAAH
...

HAAH
...

HAAH
...

KITA-
HARA!!!

WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
DOING!!!?

YOU'RE COMING WITH SENSEI TO THE INFIRMARY!

KI...

KITAHARA-SAN!!

THE LAST TIME

THAT WAS ...

I SAW KITAHARA.

IF YOU'RE GONNA CRY ABOUT IT, THEN DON'T GET SO CARRIED AWAY.

WHY ...

WHY ...

DIDN'T SIGN HER NAME IN OUR YEARBOOKS,

AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT OF OUR THIRD YEAR, THE KITAHARA AYA WHO STOPPED ATTENDING

DIDN'T SAY GOODBYE TO US;

AND VANISHED ABRUPTLY LIKE A GHOST

3-3

PHEW ...

SHEESH ...

TAKE CARE!

BYE BYE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE HARRASSMENT CONTINUED UP UNTIL OUR GRADUATION DAY.

EITHER WAY, THIS IS A PROBLEM FOR AN ENROLLED STUDENT.

OOH!

KURO-SAWA SPOT-TED!

KITA-HARA

IF I COULD, FOR YOU ...

BUT

I WAS ABLE TO END-URE.

DO YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH ME?

YEA!

KOBA-YASHI!

PHEW, I'M GLAD YOU HAD STAYED BEHIND.

I WANTED TO GET A COMPLETE COLLECTION OF EVERYBODY'S SIGNATURES ON THIS FREE PAGE IN OUR YEARBOOK.

YOU WRITE SOMETHING TOO, PLEASE.

...!

ME...?

THAT'S RIGHT!

HERE'S A PEN!

AH ...

WELL THEN ...

HEY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

EH?!

WHAT DID I DO!?

GIMME YOUR YEAR-BOOK!

ISN'T IT *COMMON* SENSE TO TRADE BOOKS?!

CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

AHH?

KOBA-YASHI ...

THAT ONE IS SUGAWA

FOR ALL THOSE INCIDENTS I CAUSED ...

ARE YOU STILL ANGRY AT ME, KOBA-YASHI?

WOW, YOU DON'T HAVE VERY MANY

NAGAOKA, TAKIGAWA, PIZA-TA, AND ..

WHO IS THIS?

WHAT IS IT?

WELL, I WASN'T EVEN ANGRY AT YOU TO BEGIN WITH.

HN?

HMM...

HOW DO YOU WRITE THE WORD "SAWA"?

THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY SENSE IN ME GETTING ANGRY, RIGHT?

I REMEMBER!

AFTER ALL, YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO ME.

.....

I SEE

...

AHH

...

AT THAT TIME I WOULD HAVE GONE AND KNOCKED YOU OUT!

HOWEVER, IF YOU HAD DONE SOMETHING TO ERIKA

...

KOBA-YASHI WAS

THAT TYPE OF GUY, HUH?

KNOW HIM

ALL DONE!

RIGHT NOW, I'M GLAD THAT

LIKE NAGAOKA, MET HIM IN MY SECOND YEAR

AS I THOUGHT, I'M SO GLAD THAT I CAME OUT AND SAW

THE OUT-SIDE WORLD ...!

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS KITA-HARA ...

RIGHT ...?

ALL RIGHT!

WITH THIS, TODAY I'VE GOTTEN EVERYONE EXCEPT THE ABSENT PERSON.

KITA-HARA, EH...

I'LL MANAGE TO GET IT SOME-HOW ...

ERIKA AND I ARE THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF THE CLASS REUNION.

WE HAVE TO GRAB THE CONTACT INFORMATION OF EVERYBODY IN OUR CLASS.

WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, CAN YOU WRITE DOWN YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION TOO?

AH, I FORGOT.

YOU'RE GOING TO ATTEND, RIGHT?

NATURALLY.

OF COURSE.

YEAH.

THE TESTIMONY FROM A CERTAIN FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

KITA-HARA-SAN?

AHH, THAT DEPRESSED LOOKING SHORT GIRL.

SHE CAME TO SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF OUR FIRST TERM,

RIGHT?

I HAVEN'T SEEN HER RECENTLY.

SORRY, I DON'T KNOW HER WELL ...

.....

I SEE ...

THANK YOU.

オナニーフォダー黒沢

I VISITED THE APARTMENT KITAHARA LIVED IN

SHORTLY AFTER OUR SECOND TERM OF HIGH SCHOOL STARTED.

IT'S THIS PLACE, RIGHT ...

OOH, IT'S KUROSAWA?

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

I'M DOING WELL.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE DOING PRETTY WELL YOURSELF, NOMIYA-SENSEI

OF COURSE, HEALTH IS CAPITAL FOR A PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER!

SO, WHAT DID YOU WANT TODAY?

WELL, IT'S ABOUT

KITA-HARA ...

I CALLED MY FORMER TEACHER FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL, NOMIYA-SENSEI, TO ASK ABOUT HOW KITAHARA WAS DOING AFTER GRADUATION.

SHE TOOK AN ADMISSIONS COURSE AT A SCHOOL THAT WAS BELOW TS ADMISSIONS QUOTA AND WAS ACCEPTED IN THEIR SECONDARY RECRUITING PHASE

"FOR THE TIME BEING" SHE ENTERED SCHOOL

ピンポーン…

HOW SHOULD I EVEN GREET HER ...?

SHORTLY AFTER THAT, HE RECEIVED THE INFORMATION THAT SHE HAD STOPPED ATTENDING SCHOOL

WHO MIGHT THIS BE?

...YES?

IS AYA-SAN AT HOME RIGHT NOW?

AH.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

MY NAME IS KUROSAWA, AND I AM AYA-SAN'S CLASSMATE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL.

I HAD WONDERED IF SHE HAD ANY FRIENDS ...

I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO TELL AYA-SAN THAT DIRECTLY.

THE THING IS, OUR THIRD YEAR CLASS IS GOING TO HAVE ITS REUNION SOON.

WE'RE PRETTY CLOSE FRIENDS.

THEY LOOK SO SIMILAR

... WILL YOU LET ME MEET HER?

AYA IS HERE, BUT SHE'S ALWAYS IN HER ROOM.

LATELY, SHE DOESN'T COME OUT MUCH.

HOW-EVER,

I'M REALLY SORRY, KUROSAWA-KUN, BUT

I DON'T THINK THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO

SEE HER FACE ...

EHH

IF SHE TALKS TO A MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSMATE SHE HASN'T SEEN FOR A LONG TIME,

MAYBE THAT WILL OPEN HER HEART A LITTLE BIT ...

SHE HAS BECOME A SHUT-IN.

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO SAY THIS ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON, BUT ...

EVEN I, HER MOTHER,

SEE HER FACE LESS AND LESS.

SHE'S STOPPED ATTENDING SCHOOL RECENTLY

AND IF SHE HAS ANY BUSINESS SHE WILL ONLY LEAVE THE HOUSE AT NIGHT

IN THESE LAST SIX MONTHS

SHE'S SLIT HER WRISTS FIVE TIMES.

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.

I KNOW THAT I CAN'T SPOIL HER.

EVEN THOUGH I KNOW THAT SHE CAN'T CONTINUE ON DOING THIS ...

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HER ...

I'M SO SCARED ...

IF I SCREW UP WHILE DEALING WITH HER, SHE SEEMS LIKE SHE WILL BREAK ...

JUST THE TWO OF US, FOR THESE LAST SIXTEEN YEARS ...

BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER ...

I DON'T MIND.

IT MIGHT BE UNPLEASANT FOR YOU, BUT ... KUROSAWA-KUN, I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE ...

... TO TALK TO HER, YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO DO IT FROM BEHIND A CLOSED DOOR.

I'M USED TO TALKING TO HER THROUGH A DOOR, ANYWAYS.

I HAVE TO TALK TO KITAHARA.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S THROUGH A DOOR OR WHATEVER

THAT ENDED HALF A YEAR AGO.

SHE IS THE ONLY REGRET I HAVE LEFT FROM MY MIDDLE SCHOOL LIFE

MUST PUT ALL MY REGRETS TO REST, WITHOUT FAIL

COMPL-ETELY SETTLING MY AFFAIRS.

THAT IS MY JUSTICE.

KITA-HARA ...?

WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF YOUR VISIT TO KITAHARA'S HOUSE?

...AND THEN?

WHAT HAPP-ENED?

SUGAWA AND I GO TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS, BUT I STILL MEET HER ON THE TRAIN ON THE WAY HOME!

WELL, I TRIED MY BEST ...

WHAT THE HELL, DID YOU GET REJECTED OR SOMETHING?

AS USUAL, YOU'RE A PRETTY USELESS GUY~!

IT WAS HARD TO GET A CONVER-SATION STARTED.

ガヤン

NOT MUCH. THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS OF A CONSTANTLY LONELY HIGH SCHOOL MALE STUDENT;

WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT WITH KITA-HARA?

ゴトン

HMM?

WELL?

AND ABOUT HOW PIZZA-TA WENT TO A TECHNICAL SCHOOL SO THAT HE COULD BE AN ANIMATOR OR CREATE AN ORIGINAL EROGAME ...

ガヤン

ゴトン

ALSO ABOUT HOW NAGAOKA AND TAKIGAWA ENTERED THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AND STILL FLIRT WITH EACH OTHER SHAMELESSLY;

DID YOU TALK ABOUT ME?

UMM, HEY ...

IT WAS A PRETTY ONE-SIDED CONVERSATION WITH JUST ME TALKING, THOUGH.

SU-
WA

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT.

KITA-
HARA
...

KITAHA-
RAAAA!!

SHE'S GONE TOO FAR!!

THAT'S HOW IT WAS.

IN ANY CASE, IS SHE EVEN GOING TO COME?

WELL
...

WELL, YOU CAN APOLOGIZE TO HER DIRECTLY AT THE CLASS REUNION

EVEN NOW 俊 EVEN MORE SO THAN MYSELF. IT LOOKS LIKE SUGAWA WANTS TO SAY GOODBYE TO THOSE DAYS. SHE REGRETS

WHAT THE HELL, RIGHT WHEN I FELT LIKE APOLOGIZING TO HER

THE TRUTH IS 実 IT WAS 彩 は SUGAWA'S IDEA か TO USE の GATHERING MEMBERS FOR THE REUNION AS AN EXCUSE TO VISIT 裏 KITAHARA に

ぶつ
ぶつ

WE STILL HAVE ABOUT ONE MONTH LEFT, I'LL MANAGE SOMETHING BEFORE THEN.

YEAH ... BUT,

THAT'S NO GOOD!

SHE POLITELY RESPONDED SAYING "I'M ABSOLUTELY NOT GOING, DON'T WANT TO GO"

SOONER OR LATER, SHE MAY OPEN UP HER HEART.

THERE'S STILL A LOT OF STUFF WE HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT.

I'M GOING TO GO VISIT KITAHARA AGAIN.

WELL, TRY YOUR BEST.

FOR ME AS WELL, TOO.

I SEE ...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT ...

SMOKING

YOU SMOKE, RIGHT?

IT'S BAD FOR YOUR BODY, SO YOU SHOULD QUIT.

EH? DAILY ACTIVITY?

DID YOU CONTINUE YOUR DAILY ACTIVITY AFTER ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL?

ON THE VERY LAST DAY OF OUR SECOND YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL,

I HAD A NEAR-MISS WITH SUGAWA AND HER FRIENDS WHILE I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF MY DAILY ACTIVITY

IT WAS A SECRET THAT I HAD NEVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT.

WELL ...

HUH?

DID I EVER TALK TO YOU ABOUT SMOKING BEFORE?

HEY SAY SOME-THING

YOU'RE RIGHT

SOME-ONE'S INSIDE

!!

YOU'RE BEING SO CONSI-DERATE IN YOUR OWN WAY.

THANKS.

WOW. YOU TRY NOT TO SMOKE IN FRONT OF ME?

THAT'S WEIRD

EVEN THOUGH I'M TRYING NOT TO SMOKE IN FRONT OF YOU.

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA, YOU DISGUSTING SON OF A BITCH!

I'M JUST NOT DOING IT BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO BE SNITCHED ON AT SCHOOL!

BAH!!?

NOBODY IS BEING FREAKING CONSIDERATE TO YOU!!!

HAHA HAHA!

SORRY, SORRY.

"ON THE REST OF THE WAY TO HOME" SUGAWA WAS IN A FOUL MOOD

SHUT UP AND LEAVE ME ALONE!

EVEN SO, YOU SHOULD STOP SMOKING.

TO SEE HER BLUSH AND GET ANGRY

WAS KIND OF FUN.

I'M HOME!

NOW, WHO SHALL I FAP TO TODAY?

STILL CONTINUED MY DAILY ACTIVITY, EVEN THOUGH THE LOCATION HAD CHANGED TO MY BEDROOM.

WELL THEN.

PHEW ...

SU-GAWA?

THAT WOULD BE NICE.

I HAD THIS SAME EXPERIENCE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, TOO.

何が起きた!?

MY ERECT PENIS THROBS WITH THE SAME RHYTHM AS THE PAINS IN MY CHEST.

IF I THINK ABOUT HER WHILE I'M GRABBING MY PENIS, SOMEHOW, MY CHEST STARTS TO HURT.

HOW-EVER, RECE-NTLY,

IN MY BLOOD-FILLED, THROBBING HARD PENIS THAT WAS ABOUT TO EXPLODE

A WARNING BELL WENT OFF TO LET ME KNOW "WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?"

THE TRUTHS BEHIND THOSE PAINFUL YET WARM FEELINGS;

EVEN NOW, I STILL

REM-EMBER THEM CLEARLY.

I WOULD GO VISIT KITA-HARA'S HOUSE.

AFTER THAT TIME WHEN-EVER HAD SPARE TIME EACH WEEK,

IN THE END, I NEVER GOT HER TO SAY

THAT SHE WAS GOING TO GO OUTSIDE, OR THAT SHE WOULD ATTEND THE CLASS REUNION.

SHE WASN'T REALLY MOTI-VATED.

ALTHOUGH SHE LISTENED CAREFULLY TO MY PERSUA-SIONS,

IT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T COME ...

.....

19:01

IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE ...

HMM ...

WELL THEN, KITA-HARA ...

I'LL BE BACK AGAIN ...

AND THE DAY OF THE CLASS REUNION IN NOVEMBER CAME

AT THE VERY END, MY EFFORTS BORE NO FRUIT

BECAUSE OF THAT, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE.

ISN'T THAT WHY YOU HAD TO GO BACK AND GET A JACKET?

THE WIND'S BECOME PRETTY CHILLY, HUH?

YEAH...

I COULDN'T GET HER TO COME OUT.

IN THE END, KITA-HARA'S NOT COMING, RIGHT?

SHUT UP! WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'LL SAY IF SHOW UP TOGETHER WITH YOU!

WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE

YOU DON'T HAVE BOTHER GOING THAT FAR

IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE IF SHE HADN'T TOLD ME "LET'S GO TOGETHER"

WELL THEN!

WAIT HERE FOR ABOUT TEN MINUTES BEFORE COMING, OK?

WELL, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

I SEE ...

焼肉うおォン

OOH!

KUROSAWA-DONO!

MY BAD!

THE MEETING PLACE WAS ALREADY FILLED WITH FAMILIAR FACES.

YOU'RE SLO---W!

YOU JUST BARELY MADE IT!

HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE SUMMER VACATION!

THIS SMALL PARKING LOT WAS FULL OF THE SAME ATMOSPHERE THAT EXISTED HALF A YEAR AGO IN OUR THIRD YEAR, CLASS THREE

EVERY-BODY'S CHANGED A LITTLE, BUT

KURO-SAWA-KUN HAS ARRIVED!

RIGHT!

ウェーイ

WELL THEN SHALL WE GO IN?!

IT'S LIKE WE'RE A HUMAN THERMAL POWER STATION OR SOMETHING!

焼肉 うおオン

COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE FOLKS WHO MOVED, OR THOSE WHO HAD SOME OTHER BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO,

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE GOTTEN MOST EVERYBODY HERE.

WELL THEN, GET OVER HERE, YOU IDIOTS!

THIS IS SO MUCH FUN!

焼肉とお鮨がうまい

THIS REST-AURANT IS PRETTY GOOD.

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER WE'D ALWAYS COME HERE AFTER MATCHES!

HEY.

IT'S NOT A SLIDING DOOR?

EX-CUSE ME!!

ガラ

ガラ

イイイイイ

うおオン

THE RESER-VATION FOR 27 PEOPLE UNDER BAYASHI

YES YES, WEL-COME!

HOLD IT!

WEL-COME!

AH?

WHAT'S WRONG, KURO-SAWA?

of u

HEY, HEY, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING AT THIS TIME ...

I'LL RETURN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

IS IT OK IF RUN OUT FOR THIRTY MINUTES AND COME BACK?

CAN'T YOU EVEN CONTROL THE URGE TO BEAT YOUR DICK EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THESE GIRLS FOR SO LONG ...

IDIOT!!

YOU'RE NOT GONNA SAY THAT YOU WANT TO GO HOME AND JERK OFF, RIGHT?!

IT CAN'T BE ...

SHE'S ABSENT RIGHT NOW, BUT I WANT TO TRY ASKING HER ONCE MORE.

NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

THERE'S SOMEBODY I WANT TO BRING HERE.

EVERY-ONE, GO IN FIRST!

THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING, SO I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

YES, THAT'S FINE.

IS IT ALL RIGHT IF WE HAVE 28 PEOPLE?

BUT THERE'S NO WAY I COULD LEAVE HER ALONE.

IT'S REALLY STRANGE FOR ME TO LEAVE AT A TIME LIKE THIS

SHE JUST ISN'T ABLE TO GO OUTSIDE OF HER HOUSE.

IT ISN'T AS THOUGH SHE HAS MOVED OR HAS SOME OTHER BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO;

THE CLASS REUNION HAS STARTED!!

KITAHARA! GET OUT HERE!

I CAN'T GO ...

THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO GO!

KITA-HARA!

YOU MIGHT NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE EVERYONE UNDER ONE ROOF EVER AGAIN!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN THE NEXT CLASS REUNION IS GOING TO OCCUR!

I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER TRICKS.

IF YOU DON'T COME ...

YOU WILL DEFINITELY REGRET IT LATER !

IN THIS PAST MONTH, I'VE TRIED EVERY-THING.

THERE MIGHT BE SOME FACES WHOM YOU WILL NEVER SEE AGAIN!

NAGAOKA CAME THERE, TOO...!

I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY TO HER

OTHER THAN THE WORD "COME!"

SUCH AS "I LIKED YOU", OR SOMETHING ...

WE COULD LAUGH ABOUT IT AND TALK ABOUT IT ...!

THERE ARE STILL SOME PENT-UP WORDS INSIDE YOU THAT YOU COULD STILL SAY HONESTLY RIGHT NOW, RIGHT?

I DON'T WANT TO GO ...

I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE'S FACE ...

... NO ...

I DON'T THINK ANYONE REALLY WANTS TO SEE ME, RIGHT...?

BESIDES ...

THE KITAHARA THAT STOOD FACING THE DOOR,

EVERYBODY'S ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME ...

THIS IS HOW WE ALWAYS WERE.

UNTIL THE END, I'LL ALWAYS BE THAT GIRL WHO CUT HER WRIST AND DISAPPEARED ...

I COULD NOT SEE HER FACE.

--SEE YOU TOMORROW, WE'LL MEET IN THE CLASSROOM.

AFTER WE HAVE GRAD-UATED FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL,

SHE HAD NEVER SAID THOSE WORDS TO ME, BUT NOW,

WILL BE TODAY しかない

「THE ONLY TIME WE WILL BE ABLE TO MEET IN THE "CLASS-ROOM" I」

...

THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL.

IF SHE RUNS AWAY FROM THIS DAY

THEN WE'LL BE STUCK FOREVER TALKING TO EACH OTHER THROUGH THIS DOOR.

THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE ...!

I REME-MBER ...!

...

TAKI-GAWA-SAN?

...

TAKI-GAWA!

AND SO DOES ...

TAKIGAWA'S DREAM IS FOR EVERYONE TO GO ON A TRIP TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK, JUST LIKE WHAT WE DID FOR OUR SCHOOL TRIP.

YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW THIS, BUT ...

D GROUP ... S.O.S.-DAN.

NAGAOKA WOULD BE THERE, SO WOULD PIZZA-TA ...

DO YOU GET WHAT I MEAN BY "EVERY-ONE"?

AND YOU.

ALONG WITH ME ...

"IF THERE WAS A GIRL AS STRONG AS YOU WERE, THEN SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO SETTLE HER EMOTIONAL DISPUTES USING A DIFFERENT METHOD."

IS WHAT I SAID TO YOU.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

WHAT I SAID TO YOU WHILE WE WERE RIDING THE BULLET TRAIN ON OUR WAY BACK FROM THE SCHOOL TRIP?

HEY, KITAHARA.

YOU WERE ALWAYS BY YOURSELF IN CLASS, ENDURING ALL THAT PRESSURE UNTIL YOU COULD ENDURE NO LONGER.

YOU WERE POWERLESS

BUT YOU WEREN'T REALLY AS STRONG AS I HAD IMAGINED, WERE YOU?

IT'S NOT AS IF YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

AND BEING ALONE MADE YOU FEEL INSIGNIFICANT BUT

BUT YOU SEE

YOU MIGHT NOT BE STRONG RIGHT NOW, BUT

THERE IS DEFINITELY SOMETHING YOU CAN DO.

SOMETHING LIKE OPENING THIS DOOR

WILL BE EASY FOR YOU.

IF SHE OPENS THIS DOOR, I'LL BE HERE,

AND NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'LL LEND HER A HAND.

I WOULD EVEN CLIMB A TREE TO HELP GET HER GYM CLOTHES AFTER THEY WERE THROWN OUT A WINDOW

WHETHER IT IS LOVE, OR IF SHE'S GOTTEN HURT OR EVEN TIMES WHEN SHE'S JEALOUS OF SOMEONE, I'LL BE THERE TO LISTEN

壊してやるだけだ

BOTH OF US ARE PRETTY WEAK.

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

IN SPITE OF THAT, WE WERE ABLE TO CAUSE SO MANY INCIDENTS TOGETHER.

IF WE'RE TOGETHER, SURELY THERE'S NOTHING THAT WE CANNOT ACCOMPLISH?

PROMISED KOBAYASHI THAT WOULD BE BACK IN 30 MINUTES

CAN'T HANG AROUND HERE ANY LONGER

19:13

I'M GOING TO LEAVE SOON ...

WELL THEN ...

...

WAIT.

SO, WAIT ...

I'M CHANGING CLOTHES ...

OKAY?

OH.

ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY, KUROSAWA-KUN?

FEEL FREE TO COME AGAIN.

PARDON THE INTRUSION.

I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT ...

H...

HOLD ON!!

!!?

WHAT IN THE WORLD

IS YOUR GUYS' RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT HER TO COME OUTSIDE ...!

WE'RE CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH.

RELA-TION-SHIP ...

WELL, TO PUT IT BLUNTLY ...

TAKE IT EASY ...

H... HOLD ON.

SO GOING OUTSIDE IS A BIT INTENSE ...

I'VE BEEN SHUT IN AT HOME ALL THIS TIME ...

.....

IT'LL BE GOOD IF YOU CAN GET USED TO IT LITTLE BY LITTLE.

YEAH... IT SEEMS LIKE THE TITLE OF "ONANI MASTER" IS PRETTY DIFFICULT TO RELINQUISH.

BUT, ... I'LL MANAGE, SOME-HOW.

HMM?

AREN'T YOU ALONE WITHOUT ANY CLOSE FRIENDS?

ISN'T HIGH SCHOOL ...

PAINFUL FOR YOU?

MORE-OVER,

I HAVE SOMEONE THAT I CARE ABOUT.

NOW, I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO BECOME.

SHE'S A BIT CRUDE, THOUGH.

IS IT A GIRL?

I SEE ...

ANYWHERE WOULD BE FINE, JUST WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER WITH HER

A MOVIE, OR AN AMUSEMENT PARK,

THIS TIME, I WANT TO ASK HER OUT SOME-WHERE.

...

...

AREN'T YOU SCARED?

"WHO WOULD WANT TO GO ANYWHERE WITH A DISGUSTING SON OF A BITCH LIKE YOU?!"

ALTHOUGH SHE MIGHT TURN ME DOWN BY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE:

BUT YOU SEE,

IF I GET REJECTED, THEN I MIGHT GET DEPRESSED

AND NOT BE ABLE TO RECOVER FOR A WHILE.

IT'S SCARY.

I DON'T WANT TO

MISS THIS CHANCE TO ASK HER.

焼肉 うおオン

WELL, LET'S GO IN.

WAIT.

AS I THOUGHT ...

I'M A LITTLE SCARED ...

THIS TIME, SHE SET FOOT INTO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

JUST WAIT ...

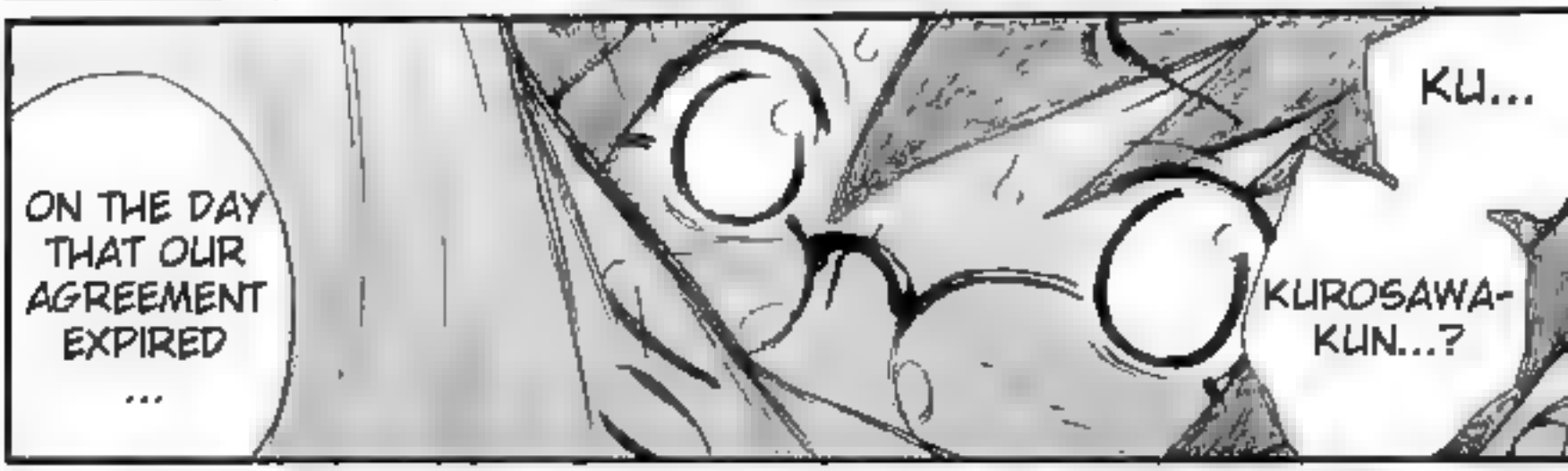
A LITTLE LONGER ...

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF FACES THE PEOPLE IN THERE WILL MAKE AS THEY WELCOME HER INSIDE.

I GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS BEFORE THE DOOR IS OPENED.

IF YOU'RE ALONE, ...RIGHT?

KITA-HARA ...


ON THE DAY THAT OUR AGREEMENT EXPIRED ...
KU...
KUROSAWA-KUN...?

IT WAS KIND OF MYSTER-IOUS,
AND IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE FACES YOU NORMALLY MAKE

AFTER I OPENED THE BATH-ROOM DOOR
SAW YOUR SURPRISED FACE.

EVEN THOUGH I SAW YOUR FACE EVERY DAY IN THE CLASSROOM, IT WAS STRANGE.

HOWEVER, I REALIZED THAT

WE'RE ALWAYS SEPAR-ATED

BY A DOOR.

TRY OPENING THE DOOR.

IT WILL SURELY BE DIFFER-ENT THAN THE USUAL.

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MEET ME, ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE.

WEL-COME!

AH! KURO-SAWA-DONO, YOU'RE SLOW!!

バタン…

I'LL BE GOING IN FIRST.

ガチャ

WE'VE ALREADY STARTED!!

SHEESH, WHERE IN THE WORLD DID YOU RUN OFF TO?!

SENSE!!!!!

KOBAYASHI IS DRINKING BEER!!

HEY!!

SIT OVER HERE!!

WHAT!?

HEY, KOBA-YASH!!

YOU EXCEEDED 30 MINUTES A LONG TIME AGO!

LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO SLAP YOU AROUND A LITTLE FOR THAT!!

AH, YOU, FREAKING ONANI MASTER ...

HA HA!

YOU SEE, KITA-HARA?

THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS SO MUCH FUN.

A GOOD FOR NOTHING TEACHER HAS APPEARED!

HOOK SENSEI UP TOO!

WELL, COME ON OVER HERE.

WAIT, HOLD ON A BIT.

COME NOW, KURO-SAWA-DONO, TAKE THIS SEAT!

THIS TIME, I WAS THE CATCHER.

THERE'S ACTUALLY ONE MORE PERSON

HOWEVER, IF THIS SIDE OF THE WORLD IS SOMETHING THAT YOU WISH FOR,

NOT EVERYTHING GOES THE WAY I PLAN IT.

THE SOUND OF A DOOR OPENING AND YOU COMING IN TO MEET ALL OF US?

I WILL STEADILY DELIVER THOSE SOUNDS TO YOU.

IF YOU LISTEN CARE-FULLY,

HERE.

THE TRAIN WILL BE PASSING THROUGH THE #3 PLATFORM.

IF I GET BAD GRADES THIS TIME, I WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK AT MY PART-TIME JOB

なあ

あ

あ

. . . . . .

AHH~ WHAT AM I GONNA DO ABOUT FINALS~?

IT'S SERIOUSLY DEPRESSING ...

I'LL TREAT YOU TO A MEAL, OKAY?

HEY, THIS TIME, CAN YOU HELP ME STUDY?

カリカリ...

コトン...

カリカリ...

-ING?!!

HEY, KURO-SAWA, ARE YOU LISTEN-

?

WHAT WAS THAT ...

WHA ...

MY BAD ...

HOWEVER, I SAW THAT FIGURE PRETTY CLEARLY.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN LISTEN UP TO WHAT I'M SAYING!

GEEZ,

NOTH-ING ...

IT WAS A SCENE WE PASSED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

IT WAS AN UNFAMILIAR STATION'S PLATFORM.

THE GIRL WHO WAS STANDING THERE

WAS WEARING GLASSES, WAS KIND OF SHORT, AND LOOKED KIND OF LIKE A SQUIRREL.

INSIDE THE POCKET OF MY SCHOOL UNIFORM

WERE A PAIR OF MOVIE TICKETS THAT HAD BEEN PUT IN THERE FOR OVER A MONTH.

ONE MONTH AGO, TAKIGAWA SHOWED UP AT MY WORKPLACE, SAID THAT, AND HANDED THEM TO ME.

KUROSAWA-KUN, AT THE CLASS REUNION, YOU SAID THAT YOU HAD SOMEONE YOU CARED ABOUT, RIGHT?

GO!

TOGETHER, JUST THE TWO OF YOU!

SEEMS QUITE TYPICAL OF HER TO GET THE WRONG IDEA AND THINK OF ME AS A LOST CAUSE.

GO FOR IT!

IT WILL BE BE NICE IF YOU GO WITH NAGAOKA

ARE YOU SURE ...?

IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE!

NO NEED TO HOLD BACK!

HOWEVER, EVEN NOW

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO LIVE UP TO THE FAVOR TAKIGAWA DID FOR ME.

黒沢

番外発「アイ・ソウ・ユー」

DECE-MBER 22.

ON THIS DAY, MY HIGH SCHOOL HAD ITS CLOSING CEREMONY, AND UNTIL NEW YEAR'S, WE WOULD ENTER A SHORT WINTER VACATION

カリン

ゴトン

BUT YOU SEE, IT'S ONLY TWO WEEKS, RIGHT?

SUGAWA, DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR WINTER BREAK?

I'M NOT GONNA HAVE ANY FREE TIME TO REST.

カリン

ゴトン

GO SEE THE ILLU-MINATION,

GO CLOTHES SHOPPING WITH AYUMI AND THEM;

GOTTA GO TO MY PART-TIME JOB,

I DO! THERE'S TONS OF STUFF!

WHAT ABOUT FOR CHRIST-MAS?

. . . .

AFTER THAT, SNOW-BOARD-NG ...

AH.

I WANTED TO USE CHRISTMAS AS AN EXCUSE TO INVITE HER TO THE MOVIE

BUT I GUESS THAT WON'T WORK

IN ANY CASE, IF YOU DON'T HAVE MONEY, YOU CAN'T REALLY DO ANYTHING, RIGHT?

I'M KIND OF A LOWER-CLASS GIRL.

AHH, I HAVE TO WORK.

JUST IN CASE, I HAD TAKEN THE DAY OFF FROM WORK

WELL ...

I'LL SPEND IT READING A BOOK OR SOMETHING

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ON CHRISTMAS?

WHAT ABOUT KUROSAWA?

SHE'S RUDE, BRASH, AND SARCASTIC.

FOR A GIRL THAT WAS PRETTY MUCH MY POLAR OPPOSITE,

BEING SINGLE MUST BE SO LONELY~

HEH! YOUR INTROVERTED HOBBIES HAVE APPEARED!

WHY AM I

SO ATTRACTED TO HER?

MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT I'M BECOMING AWARE OF THE OPPOSITE SEX.

AREN'T YOU SINGLE AS WELL, SUGAWA?

I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT THE REASON FOR THAT YET, BUT

A~AH!

MAYBE I WILL TAKE A DAY OFF WORK ON CHRISTMAS AND FIND A NICE GUY TO SPEND IT TOGETHER WITH~

I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU.

IF I WANTED TO HAVE A BOYFRIEND, I COULD GET ONE ANY TIME.

RIGHT NOW, IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE, SO I'M NOT GOING OUT WITH ANYONE.

WITH THIS, WE'RE EVEN.

PROMIS-CUOUS GIRL ...

TO SAY THOSE WORDS SO OPENLY IN PUBLIC

STAYING AT HOME BY YOUR LONESOME SELF AND JERKING OFF SUITS YOU PRETTY WELL.

HAH!

KEEP TALKING YOU INTROVERTED SON OF A BITCH

THE CUTENESS OF A CAT THAT IGNORES ITS OWNER AND ALWAYS GIVES HIM THE COLD SHOULDER

ほれっ ほれ おいっ ほれ

NEVERTHE-LESS, I THINK THE FACT THAT SHE IS NOT VERY STRAIGHT-FORWARD ALMOST RESEMBLES

IF ONLY THERE WAS A GUY WITHIN MY REACH

THAT HAD SOME SPARE TIME ...

BUT, WELL,

LOOKING FOR A GUY IS SO BOTHER-SOME

UMM...

WELL...

THERE WOULDN'T REALLY BE ANYTHING FOR US TO DO... RIGHT?

WHAT WAS IT THAT NAGAOKA HAD SAID TO ME THAT TIME...

TSUN

TSUN...

BAKA?

NO, THAT'S WRONG.

NOW'S MY CHANCE!

WE-... WELL THEN,

NO! THAT ASIDE,

OOH!

MAIKO!!

MAIKO!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!

MAKO!

AMI!

EH? YOU GUYS GO TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL?!

SHIT...

I TOTALLY MISSED ...

EHH, I MISSED YOU GUYS SOOOOO MUCH!!

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO LATELY?!

BITCHES ...!

AHH?

WHO'S THAT GUY OVER THERE?

HER BOY-FRIEND YA-MADA ISN'T HERE?

WELL, WHAT-EVER.

THIS GIRL IS YA-SHIRO MAKI.

I DIDN'T RECOG-NIZE HER FOR A MO-MENT BE-CAUSE SHE GOT A PERM.

WHO SHALL I FAP TO TODAY ...?

...

AHH, THIS GUY IS ...

YOUR BOY-FRIEND?

EHH? I SEE.

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S HOW IT IS ...

IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S MY BOYFRIEND OR ANYTHING.

JUST AN ACQUAIN-TANCE.

REGARDING THAT TIME I BEAT YOU UP...

WE'RE COOL, RIGHT?

WELL, IN THIS REGARD

I WAS SAVED BY HER FRANK PERSON-ALITY.

BY ALL RIGHTS, EVEN IF SHE HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST ME, CAN'T COMPLAIN.

IT'S NOT AS IF WE'RE EXACTLY FRIENDS, OR AS IF WE GOT ALONG WELL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

YOU SEE, WE'RE GOING TO A SINGLES MIXER TONIGHT ...

SINCE YOU DON'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND, YOU SHOULD COME TOO!

WITHOUT A DOUBT, I'M JUST AN ACQUAINTANCE.

WELL THEN, MAIKO, YOU'RE SINGLE RIGHT NOW, RIGHT?

YEA, YEA!

MAIKO WILL GET SUCH A WARM WELCOME THERE!

SINGLES MIXER?

IT CAN'T BE!

AREN'T THOSE JUST AN URBAN LEGEND!?

BY THE WAY, IT SEEMS THE GUYS THERE WILL BE PRETTY HIGH CLASS!

COME ON!

SO THAT'S HOW MIDDLE SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS ARE

I WONDER IF YASHIRO HAS ALREADY BROKEN UP WITH YAMADA, SINCE SHE'S GOING TO THIS SINGLES MIXER

ちら、

WHAT SHOULD I DO ...

AHHH ...

WHY DON'T YOU GO?

DIDN'T YOU SAY EARLIER YOU WANTED TO FIND A NICE GUY TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH?

IT WASN'T TYPICAL OF SUGAWA

TO BE RESERVED OR HESITANT

THE WORDS THAT CAME OUT OF MY MOUTH WERE THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT I WAS THINKING

REALLY?!

WELL THEN, IT'S DECIDED!

BUT IT'S FINE

SHUT UP ...

I WOULD HAVE GONE EVEN IF YOU HADN'T TOLD ME TO ...!

YEA ...

SEE YA LATER ...

WELL THEN ...

IF THAT'S HOW IT IS ...

HMM ...

WELL,

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THESE TICKETS ...

YANKEE GIRL!

I THINK IT'S SAFER IF YOU SERIOUSLY JUST GIVE UP ON THIS

AND THEN, THEY'LL SWITCH GUYS JUST LIKE THAT!

FOR GIRLS LIKE THAT, IF THEY NEED SOME LOVIN', THEN ANYBODY'S FINE WITH THEM!

3年1組

ONLY DREAM ABOUT THAT KIND OF GIRL IF YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ADULT!

THEY JUST WANT TO EXPERIENCE PURE LOVE LIKE ON TELEVISION DRAMAS!

HUH?

IF I TAKE HIS ADVICE TO HEART, IT MAY COME IN HANDY ONE DAY.

豚汁もいいけどここはカニオでしょ 来夢よ!

IN ANY CASE, LOVE BETWEEN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLERS DOESN'T LAST VERY LONG, ANYWAYS!

A MAN WHO DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE AND HAS BEEN A FREETER THE LAST THREE YEARS.

WITH A SELF-PROCLAIMED "ABUNDANCE OF LIFE EXPERIENCE" THAT'S MY SENPAI

I THINK IT'S FINE IF YOU IGNORE HIM.

IT MIGHT BE A NARROW WAY OF LOOKING AT IT BUT IT'S MY OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE!

I KIND OF SEE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING ...

RIGHT?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND YANKEE GIRLS NOW?

IF YOU DRAG IT ON FOR THREE MONTHS, THEN YOU DESERVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

ANY LONGER THAN THAT AND IT'S "CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION".

IF YOU CAN PULL IT OFF FOR TWO MONTHS, THEN IT'S GOOD.

UGH

THIS BRINGS SOMETHING TO MIND

OUCH!

I WAS DECEIVED ...

EHH?

BUT ACTUALLY, THAT GIRL WAS PRETTY STABLE

WHY, WHEN I START THINKING ABOUT HER

THEY JUST LIKE PRETENDING THAT THEY'RE COOL

NAGAOKA AND HER HAVE SET PERSONALITIES THAT GO TOGETHER WELL

KOBAYASHI AND NISHIDA ARE LIKE A COMEDY DUO, AND HAVE A NICE CHEMISTRY.

AT ANY RATE, THINGS WON'T LAST, HUH...

ON THAT POINT, THINGS ARE GOING WELL FOR NAGAOKA AND TAKIGAWA, AS WELL AS KOBAYASHI AND NISHIDA.

FOOD

THE POINT IS, BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU'RE PICKING A GIRL TO GO OUT WITH

THAT'S ALL

I'M GONNA GO INSIDE AND READ A MAGAZINE

SU-GAWA AND I ...

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE WE'RE WELL MATCHED FOR EACH OTHER.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, I WONDER IF SUGAWA WILL EVEN SEE ME AS A POTENTIAL LOVE INTEREST ...

I WON-DER IF

THIS ISN'T GOOD ...

IF I LET MY IMAGINATION RUN AWAY, THEN THE PERSON IN MY HEART WILL GO TO SOMEWHERE THAT I CANNOT REACH ...

THE SAME THING WILL HAPPEN AGAIN ...

AH!

WELCO-- ...

AM 11
PM 7

YO.

AH.

スキ約受付中

SU-GAWA ...

スタ

スタ

スタッ

WHAT'S WRONG?

AS USUAL ...

WHAT ABOUT THE SINGLES MIXER?

YOU LOOK TERRIBLE IN THAT OUTFIT.

...

I BAILED.

THERE WEREN'T ANY NICE GUYS THERE.

I SEE ...

MARL-BORO LIGHTS.

EH?

I AM A CUST-OMER.

MARL-BORO LIGHTS.

YOU SHOULD REALLY STOP SMOKING.

SHUT UP!

IT'S NOT YOUR BODY, SO DON'T GO ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY.

ANYHOW, IT'S OUR POLICY NOT TO SELL TO MINORS, SO ...

I'M SORRY.

HUH?!

GIVE ME A BREAK, MAN!!

THIS IS WHY PEOPLE DON'T LIKE YOU!

HMM?

HEY ...

WHAT TIME DO YOU GET OFF WORK?

AM11 PM7

EH?

WELL THEN,

I'LL BE WAITING OUTSIDE.

10 P.M.

IN ANOTHER TEN MINUTES, HUH ...

ONCE IT HITS 10 P.M., DON'T SCREW AROUND GET YOUR ASS OUT HERE QUICKLY.

AM11 PM7

クリスマスケーキ予約受付中

THANK YOU ...

YOU'RE SLOW.

IT'S ALREADY 10:10.

THANKS FOR WAITING.

HAVE THIS AS AN APOLOGY.

TALLYING UP THE REGISTER TAKES SOME TIME.

FIRE

?...

SO WARM!

スリスリ

OOH!

HOW THOUGHTFUL OF YOU.

.....

WHY DID YOU BOTHER COMING ALL THE WAY DOWN TO MY STORE?

HEY...

YO.

スリッ

LET'S GO WANDER AROUND FOR A BIT.

I WONDER IF SHE HAS ANYTHING SHE WANTS TO TELL ME

. WONDER IF SUGAWA ANTICIPATES ANYTHING FROM INVITING ME OUT LIKE THIS.

I'M SATISFIED SHE CAME TO MY STORE, AND THAT WE CAN SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER

IF THAT'S NOT THE CASE, THEN IT'S STILL FINE WITH ME

DULL.

RECENTLY, NO MATTER WHAT I DO, IT JUST SEEMS SO

IT SEEMS LIKE ..

I JUST SOMEHOW CAN'T GET INTO IT.

THE SINGLES MIXER WAS PRETTY BORING.

GOING AROUND SAYING "KYAA KYAA" LIKE ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE THERE ISN'T FUN AT ALL.

BEFORE I ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL, I THOUGHT THAT IT SURELY WOULD BE FUN, BUT ...

AFTER I GOT IN, THAT WASN'T THE CASE AT ALL.

AAAH!

IT REALLY IS DULL.

I DIDN'T HOLD ONTO ANY STRANGE IDEALS. BUT IT FELT LIKE HIGH SCHOOL WAS 30% MORE RIGID THAN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

IT WAS THE SAME WAY WITH ME, TOO.

WE WEREN'T AFRAID OF THE TEACHERS AT ALL.

IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I DID STUPID THINGS WITH AYUMI.

HAVING ADVENTURES LIKE SECRETLY SMOKING CIGARETTES IN THE BATHROOM WAS SO MUCH FUN

. TALK WITH AYUMI EVERY NIGHT OVER THE PHONE

MY TEACHERS NOW AREN'T AS NOISY AND IDIOTIC LIKE THEY WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

ONCE IN A WHILE WE'LL GET TOGETHER AND PLAY, AND THOSE TIMES ARE SUPER ENJOYABLE.

IT'S NOT

THAT BIG OF A DEAL.

IN HIGH SCHOOL, ALL THE PEOPLE AROUND ME SMOKE.

THERE'S NO NEED TO HIDE AND DO IT SECRETLY ANY MORE.

AND YET, WHY ...

HAVE THINGS BECOME

SO DULL ...?

PLEASE TELL ME ...

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME

HEY ...

I HAD SEEN HER SO WEAK.

FOR NOW ...

LET'S SIT DOWN ...

ARE YOU CRY-ING?

MY NOSE FEELS BAD BECAUSE IT'S SO COLD!

ARE YOU STUPID?!

WHO THE HELL IS CRYING?!

MAKES US FEEL NATURALLY MORE AT EASE.

NO DOUBT THAT SITTING NEXT TO EACH OTHER LIKE THIS

THERE'S THE STRONG SU-GAWA.

NOTHING AT ALL ...

IS SOME-THING WRONG?

. . . . .

. . . .

NOTHING AT ALL, AND THAT'S WHY IT'S SO PAINFUL.

NOTHING AT ALL?

. . . .

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE CHILDREN.

WE REALIZED THAT WE HAD TO DRAW A BORDER SEPARATING OURSELVES FROM THAT TIME

FOR US, WHO WERE BOTH RECENTLY JUST IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

EVER SINCE THE DAY CONFESSED TO MY ACTIONS IN FRONT OF ALL MY CLASSMATES FEEL AS THOUGH HAD SEEN THE WORLD UP UNTIL NOW AS A VERY VERY TINY PLACE

MY BOUNDARY LINE WAS EASY TO UNDER-STAND.

AND THE SLIGHTEST THINGS SEEMED LIKE THEY WOULD HURT ME

AFTER THAT TIME, WAS FRIGHTENED OF OTHER PEOPLE

EVER SINCE DREW A BORDER ON THAT DAY, MY SENSE OF HUMAN RELATIONS HAS UNDERGONE A HUGE UPHEAVAL

EVEN THOUGH I HAD FORMERLY THOUGHT OF THESE PEOPLE AS JUST STONES ON THE SIDE OF A ROAD,

I DON'T KNOW IF SUGAWA HAS COME TO THAT PERIOD.

EVEN NOW, I GET THE FEELING THAT SHE'S COME TO ANOTHER WORLD AND CAN'T HIDE HER CONFUSION.

AND AT THAT TIME, SHE WOULD VERY MUCH

WISH FOR SOMEONE TO WHOM SHE COULD ENTRUST HER HEART TO.

HEY, SUGAWA ...

ギュッ…

WON'T YOU GO WATCH ONE?

AH?

WANT TO GO SEE A MOVIE?

I DON'T REALLY WATCH MOVIES VERY MUCH ...

I HAPPEN TO HAVE THESE TWO COMPLI-MENTARY TICKETS.

AT LAST ...

I WAS ABLE TO SAY IT ...

AND I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO GO WITH.

HOW ABOUT IT?

NO.

I HATE THAT METHOD

OF INVITATION.

SU-GAWA.

LET'S GO ON A DATE.

SUGA-WA AND I ARE STILL YOUNG AND IMMA-TURE.

I WON'T MAKE YOU BORED.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT ALL THAT STUFF.

OR IF OUR PERSON-ALITIES ARE DIFFER-ENT

WHE-THER THIS WILL LAST A LONG TIME

IF IT ALL WORKS OUT, THEN I'LL HONESTLY JUMP UP AND DOWN IN JOY.

...

REALLY?

IF THIS BECOMES AN EXPERIENCE OF YOUTH. THEN I'M FINE WITH THAT TOO.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN IT'S MY MISSION TO DRAG HER OUT FROM THAT BOREDOM.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS DEJECTED LOOKING SUGAWA ANY MORE.

I SWEAR IT.

SUGAWA SAID THAT SHE'S BEEN BORED LATELY.

NOBODY'S DEJECTED, OK?!

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT ME, I DON'T LOOK DEJECTED!

EH?!

IIII

YOU HAVE THE DAY OFF ON CHRIST-MAS, RIGHT?

I'LL GO PUT IN A REQUEST ...

I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE ASKED ...

IN EX-CHANGE.

IF YOU SHOW ME A BORING CHRIST-MAS

I'LL KILL YOU AFTER-WARDS.

ALL RIGHT ...

I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'M GOING TO LET MYSELF GET KILLED ON OUR FIRST DATE.

LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO PUT TOGETHER A CAREFUL SCHEDULE

FOR BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE MOVIE.

SEE YOU THE DAY AFTER TOMO-RROW.

YEAH, I'LL SEND YOU AN EMAIL.

WELL, THIS IS WHERE I'M GOING ...

SHUT UP! I CAN GET BACK, SO DON'T FOLLOW ME, STALKER!

WILL YOU BE OK? CAN YOU GET BACK BY YOURSELF? SHOULD I WALK YOU BACK?

HAHAHA! LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE FINE.

HEY!

KURO-SAWA.

I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD

TO THAT MOVIE.

THE CHILLED CORE OF MY BODY SUDDENLY BECAME HOT.

WITH THAT

SINCE I ONLY HAVE ONE DAY IN BETWEEN, PLANNING THAT WILL BE MY PRESENT OBJECTIVE.

WELL THEN, ON CHRISTMAS WE'RE GOING TO SEE A MOVIE; WHERE SHOULD WE GO AFTERWARD?

I'M GONNA GET KILLED AFTER-WARDS.

IF I LET SUGAWA DOWN

FOR NOW,

I'LL GO ASK MY SENPAI AT WORK TO RECOMMEND SOME DATE SPOTS.